

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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- With the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1945 and the subsequent coming to power of the Hungarian Workers' Party, all industrial research was reorganized on the Soviet pattern. Communist propaganda gave credit to the Soviet Union for the organization of industrial research institutes, completely disregarding the fact that industrial research had existed in Hungary for 70 years. [redacted] the staffs in research institutes were composed mostly of scientists and technical experts educated under the old, pre-Communist regimes. It must be admitted, however, that the Communist Regime treated scientific research personnel with special consideration, such as special financial supplements which often were double the amount of the basic salary. For instance, Professor László GILLEMET, Director of the Metal Industry Research Institute, whose basic monthly salary was 3,500 forints, was given a supplement of 7,000 forints per month as tangible recognition of his scientific talents.
- Technical publications and scientific reviews from all West European countries, in addition to all Soviet publications, were at the disposal of the research scientists. Official scientific libraries were located in the ministries, in the planning offices and in the research institutes. These libraries subscribed to all the scientific and technical magazines they could get. Hungarian research and technical societies followed carefully and systematically all the technical developments in the West, borrowing the latest methods but never giving credit to the source of information. Although much Soviet technical and scientific literature was available to the Hungarian scientists, very few of them used it because they knew no Russian. They followed scientific progress in the Soviet Union through summarized articles translated and printed in western scientific publications.

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3. The State Invention Office (Orszagos Talalmányi Hivatal), located at Stalin ter 4, Budapest V, kept a record of all inventions and reported new methods and results to the Soviet Union. Every Soviet satellite country had such an office. Thus the Soviet Union assured for itself all the scientific successes of the satellite countries.

Industrial Research Institutes

4. Industrial research institutes came under the direct supervision of the technical development divisions of industrial ministries, which in turn followed the instructions of the Technical Development Division of the State Planning Office, which had the ultimate responsibility of solving industrial problems through research. The industrial research institutes worked on the development of production technology and elaboration of technological processes for the improvement of industrial products. The services of the research institutes were also enlisted by the technical development divisions of the ministries, staffed by engineers and technical experts, in evaluating all important ideas for innovations which they received for possible further technical exploitation and development. These divisions were responsible for the organization, supervision and implementation of production processes elaborated by the research institutes.
5. The Metal Industry Research Institute (Femipari Kutato Intezet) occupied a modern four-story building, about 100 x 30 m., with many windows, located at Fehervari ut 130, Budapest XI. There were several auxiliary buildings. The Institute was under the control of two ministries. The iron research section was under the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry. It was slated to come under the General Machine Industry Ministry (Altalancos Gepipari Miniszterium), which was to be created out of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry in January 1953. The metal research section was under the Mining and Power Ministry (Banya es Energiauegyi Miniszterium). This section was slated to come under the Chemical Industry Ministry (Vegyipari Miniszterium), which was to be created out of the Mining and Power Ministry in January 1953. The Institute employed about 400 persons, mostly men. Women worked as office clerks, typists-stenographers, and laboratory assistants. Director of the Institute was Professor Laszlo GILLEMET, about 45 years old, about 5'2" tall, broad shouldered, somewhat stout, bald. His main interest was in the field of iron pulverization. He was awarded the non-divisible Kossuth Prize several times for research in this field. (Fn) FRANK, as chief engineer, was head of one of the departments in the Institute. Until 1950 he was chief of the Technical Department of the Machine Industry Division in the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry. He was awarded the Kossuth Prize for inventing, one week ahead of an American scientist, a process through which he almost doubled the tensile strength of steel by the use of special technological and alloying methods. () he raised the tensile strength of steel from 55-65 kg. to 100-110 kg. by using the same method used in the American invention.) Chief Engineer FRANK was excluded from the Hungarian Workers' Party at the end of 1948 because of his arrogance and roughness toward his colleagues. () He was indeed quite common. He was in his late forties, about six feet tall, stoop-shouldered, and bald. 25X1X 25X1X
6. The Telecommunications Research Institute (Tavkoezlesi Kutato Intezet) occupied a modern four-story building, 100 x 20 m., at Gabor Aron ut. 65, Budapest II, and several small auxiliary buildings. It was subordinate to the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry, but it was slated to come under the General Machine Industry Ministry beginning in January 1953, where it would work under the Technical Development Division. The number of employees, consisting mostly of

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electrical engineers, low voltage specialists, and communications technicians, was 250-300 persons. The government considered this Institute one of the most important in Hungary. Experiments were made with various military radio transmitters and receivers, radar equipment and instruments. It was guarded by the State Security Forces (Allamvedelmi Hatosag). I knew of only one person who worked in this Institute. He was (fmu) WANICSEK, born in Ujpest, an ardent Communist, about 43 years old, slender, of medium height, with a wrinkled, bony face. He lived in Budapest IV. WANICSEK had been promoted from an iron worker to the post of Chief of the Personnel Department in the Institute.

7. The Mining Research Institute (Banyaszati Kutato Intezet) was located on the ground floor of the building of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry on Guszev utca (formerly Sas ut.) 25, where it operated for a number of years under the name of Mining Research Laboratory (Banyaszati Kutato Laboratorium), for the Coal Mining Division (Szénbanyaszati Foeosztaly) which also was located in this building until 1950. When the Mining and Power Ministry was created out of this Division in January 1950 and the personnel was moved to a building on Marko ut. 16, the research laboratory was left in the building because of the machinery and installations already built into it. In the second half of 1951, several stories of a building at Wekerle Sandor ut. 18 were put at the disposal of the Institute. The Institute was slated to come under the authority of the Mining Ministry in [redacted], after the splitting in two of the Mining and Power Ministry. The Institute developed enormously after the second half of 1951. The number of employees was about 250, most of them women laboratory assistants. The Institute received daily shipments from various coal mines of sample material, lignite, and peat for examination. I knew of one person working in the Institute: (fmu) KELEMEN, a woman of medium height, plump, blond, a former laborer, member of the Hungarian Workers' Party and secretary of the Institute's Party organization. She annoyed everyone with her Party agitation and propaganda.

8. The Chemical Industry Research Institute (Vegyipari Kutato Intezet) was slated to come under the Chemical Industry Ministry in January 1953 after the splitting in two of the Mining and Power Ministry. The future reorganization of this Ministry, as well as that of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry, was common knowledge among the Ministry employees at the end of 1951.

9. [redacted]

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